



Julie L. Jones: Executive Director

Summer 2010 Issue

OUR MISSION

Providing Highway Safety and Security Through Excellence In Service, Education and Enforcement.

OUR VISION

A Safer Florida!

OUR VALUES

We Believe In:

SERVICE
by
exceeding
expectations;

INTEGRITY
by
upholding the highest
ethical standards;

COURTESY
by
treating everyone
with dignity and respect;

PROFESSIONALISM
by
inspiring confidence
and trust;

INNOVATION
by
fostering creativity;

and

**EXCELLENCE IN ALL
WE DO!**

From the Executive Director...



Summer is rapidly ending, and while millions of Florida residents and visitors have enjoyed the great outdoor activities that our state offers, members of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles remain focused on our vision of a safer Florida. Throughout the summer, we served customers, educated drivers, and took proactive enforcement measures to help ensure the safety of everyone sharing our roadways.

Although our core mission and vision have not changed, we must constantly analyze and review the way we approach our duties and responsibilities. During the last few months, our leadership team has carefully evaluated our performance, identified key strategies and initiatives, and developed new and challenging goals for the years ahead. We also have welcomed Robert Fields to the DHSMV family as our new Chief Information Officer.

There are many positive signs that we are headed in the right direction and that our hard work is benefitting Florida motorists. One of the most encouraging indicators is that Florida's 2009 crash fatality rate dropped to 1.3 per 100 million miles traveled, the lowest rate ever recorded in the Sunshine State. The number of crash fatalities fell to 2,563, a 17-year low for our state,

and more drivers are buckling-up every day.

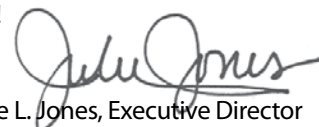
In addition to saving lives, we have seen growing participation in our Emergency Contact Information program, and the successful implementation of new requirements for the issuance of a more secure driver license and identification card. We have expanded our partnership with Florida tax collectors that perform driver license and ID card services in their local communities, and we have supported consumers and the auto industry members through the many changes affecting both car dealers and buyers.

The challenges of tomorrow are complex. Now, more than ever before, the economy will have a significant impact on our programs and operations. We will continue to carefully balance the cost of our efforts with the safety of our troopers, members, and the motoring public. Our values of service, integrity, courtesy, professionalism, innovation and excellence continue to shape how we do our business, influencing our core operations, our members, and their actions.

With the assistance of the Governor, Cabinet, Legislature, and stakeholders, we will continue this tradition of service before self – while

focusing on sound policies and decisions that are necessary to fulfill the Department's mission of public safety.

I hope you find this addition of *Expressways* both informative and entertaining. Enjoy!


Julie L. Jones, Executive Director



Department Recognized for Loss Prevention Efforts

Creating a safe working environment requires a team effort. Loss prevention experts must ensure that both management and employees remain dedicated to identifying, assessing and managing potential risks as well as developing a comprehensive set of policies and procedures that ensures the safety of everyone.

Workplace safety and loss prevention is a top priority for Executive Director Julie Jones. To address these issues, the Department has established a Safety Team composed of volunteers led by a Risk Management Coordinator and Safety Coordinator. The Safety Team is responsible for ensuring a safe and healthy workplace by reducing workplace injuries and illnesses through the development and

establishment of policies, procedures and training.

The Interagency Advisory Council in Loss Prevention recently recognized the success of the Department's program when it was selected as one of the best safety programs in the state in 2009. In May, the Department of Financial Services' Director of Risk Management made DHSMV one of the state's 11 Gold Award recipients based on the Department's efforts and established best practices.

Workplace safety results from the continuing efforts of DHSMV's first responders, fire wardens, and many educational efforts coordinated by our Safety Team. Our goal is to continue to set new standards in workplace safety.

Florida Traffic Fatalities Fall to a Record Low

Florida's crash fatality rate dropped last year to the lowest rate on record. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides details on that statistic and much more in its *Traffic Crash Statistics Report 2009*. The report summarizes data that state and local law enforcement agencies submit to DHSMV.

"The report shows that we are moving toward the Department's vision of a safer Florida," said DHSMV Executive Director Julie L. Jones. "While multiple factors influence the numbers, the declining trends are a testament to the emphasis that law enforcement agencies, safety advocates and businesses have placed on saving lives on our roadways. DHSMV will continue to work with our safety partners to add to the momentum we have gained in recent years so that we continue to see crashes, deaths and injuries decline in years to come."

Some positive trends the report highlights include:

- Crash-related fatalities on Florida roadways decreased 14 percent between 2008 and 2009, from 2,983 to 2,563. This is the fourth consecutive year that traffic fatalities have decreased.
- The number of deaths per 100 million miles traveled dropped to 1.3 last year - the lowest the state has ever reported. As a note of comparison, the rate was 5.8 deaths per 100 million miles 40 years ago.
- Alcohol-related traffic fatalities fell by 14 percent between 2008 and 2009 from 1,169 to 1,004.
- Motorcycle fatalities (drivers and passengers) dove 24 percent between 2008 and 2009 from 532 to 402.
- Bicyclist and passenger fatalities decreased 15 percent between 2008 and 2009 from 118 to 100.
- Pedestrian fatalities decreased four percent between 2008 and 2009 from 502 to 482.
- Fatalities of teen drivers and passengers, ages 15 – 19, fell significantly by more than 20 percent between 2008 and 2009 from 193 to 153. Teen drivers continue to over represent in terms of crash frequency, posting the highest rate of crash involvement of any age cohort at 381 per 10,000 licensed drivers.

A complete copy of the *Traffic Crash Statistics Report 2009* is available at www.flhsmv.gov/html/safety.html under *Traffic Crash Facts*. The website also provides the report from previous years.

EXPRESSWAYS

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Department Recognized	2
Florida Traffic Fatalities Fall	2
Participating in CarFit	3
National Association Awards DHSMV	3
DDL Participates in Charity Drive	4
State Agencies to Share Resources	4
Management Fellows Class Visits Capitol	5
In Memorium	5
Agency Celebrates 10 Years of Protection	6
ECI Registration Surpasses 3 Million	6
You Snooze, You Lose	6
Technical Process Improvements	7
Department Consolidates Data Centers	7
FLOWmobile Assists the Homeless	7
Over 2 Million Floridians Receive New IDs	8
DHSMV Executive Director Receives Award	8
Department Wins Homeland Security Award	8
Stop on Red, Kids Ahead	8



Participating in CarFit®

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is working hard to help mature drivers find their correct fit... in their vehicles. The Department is now a participant and safety partner in the National CarFit® program, a proactive educational program created by the American Society on Aging, and developed in collaboration with AARP, AAA, and the American Occupational Therapy Association. The goals of CarFit® are to:

- help mature drivers improve the fit of their vehicles for safety and comfort.
- promote conversations among older adults and families about driving safety and the continued need for mobility options to keep mature people actively participating in the life of their communities.
- link mature adults with relevant, local resources that can help ensure they drive safely longer.

DHSMV is training a team of employees to be certified CarFit® technicians who can reach out to mature drivers in the Capital City area to ensure each has:

- a clear line of sight over the steering wheel
- adequate space between the front airbag/steering wheel and the driver's

- breastbone
- properly adjusted head restraints
- proper positioning on gas and brake pedals
- proper safety belt use and fit
- safe positioning of mirrors to minimize blind spots

CarFit® provides an opportunity for trained technicians and coordinators to open a positive, non-threatening con-

versation about driver safety, to offer recommendations for adapting vehicles to ensure a safer fit for mature drivers, and to provide valuable community resources to help mature drivers continue to drive for as long as safely possible. For more information about CarFit, visit www.car-fit.org. To inquire about having your vehicle inspected by a DHSMV CarFit technician or to find out about becoming a certified technician, e-mail FHP@flhsmv.gov or call (850) 617-2379.



National Association Awards Two DHSMV Members

On July 22, two members garnered awards from the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. Ron Morse received AAMVA's prestigious 2009 International Driver Examiner Certification Examiner of the Year award. Annually, the International Driver Examiner Certification Board and AAMVA recognize outstanding examiners through the award. Examiners are selected for their excellence in adhering to the principles and recommended practices of driver examining and for their high level of conduct in their profession.

Morse, a 23-year veteran with the Department, oversees driver license-related public outreach endeavors for Alachua and Marion counties and administers the Commercial Driver License examinations to customers in Alachua County. In addition to his assigned job duties, Morse volunteers twice a month as a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician.

AAMVA selected Deborah Roby for its International Customer Service Excellence Award for Region II, which

includes Florida and 13 other states in the southeast United States, as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The prestigious award recognizes the best of the best with in each region. The criteria for the award provides for a government employee who is consistently professional, positive, courteous, and friendly. Recipients must serve as a role model and mentor, lead by example, show initiative, and consistently work outside normal parameters of their job class.

Roby meets and exceeds the criteria and goes above and beyond on a daily basis in order to serve our internal and external customers. She receives many letters of thanks from numerous tax collectors for her tireless work as the Motorist Services Advocate. Her job knowledge, commitment and professionalism are always highly visible to everyone with whom she works. Her work ethic and professionalism contribute to a more efficient and productive work environment.



Division of Driver Licenses Director, Sandra Lambert (right), presents the award to Examiner Morse (left).



Director of Workforce Programs, Rene Knight (left), congratulates Roby (right) after presenting the award to her.

Division of Driver Licenses Participates in Charity Drives

The Division of Driver Licenses has participated in two charitable campaign fundraising drives in our offices statewide this year. During the month of January, the agency partnered with Prevent Blindness Florida, an affiliate of Prevent Blindness America, which is a non-profit organization offering more than 50 years of vision education and services. The organization's focus is on promoting healthy vision care through advocacy, education, screening and research. For the past seven years, the Department has participated in this endeavor that helps spotlight Prevent Blindness Florida and their mission to assist children and families throughout the state. Customers had the option of donating

\$1 or more to support the mission of this agency. This year's campaign raised nearly \$95,000 to be used for promoting healthy vision care through advocacy, education, screening and research!

In March, driver license field offices participated in the first annual Florida Heart Research Institute's charitable donation campaign drive. The mission of the Florida Heart Research Institute is to stop heart disease through research, education and prevention. The goal of the campaign was to educate customers about the organization and the realities of heart disease, effectively working to make Florida a *State of the Heart*. The campaign raised nearly \$60,000 for the organization!



Stuffed bears were handed to customers who donated to the charitable campaigns.



State Agencies Unite to Share Resources

In a time of decreasing state funding and competing priorities, it has grown increasingly important to identify and secure grant funds to promote highway safety in Florida. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' Grants Administration Office researches funding opportunities and helps support Department initiatives through grant funds. Many state agencies face the same challenge of managing multiple priorities with limited available funding.

Grants bring in millions of dollars to DHSMV to enhance services, education and law enforcement initiatives. Currently grants support the Department's motorcycle, teen and elder driving safety

efforts. Other grants address enforcement of DUI and safety belt laws, enhance record-keeping capabilities, and increase security of DHSMV informational systems, just to name a few.

Recognizing today's funding challenges, DHSMV's grants team set out to learn from other state agencies and to share best practices among participating agencies. The Department established and held the first working group meeting in February and discussed funding tracking systems, available resources, and grant organization within the agencies. Following the success of the initial meeting, the Department sent an open invitation to additional agencies to participate. There are now 18 agencies

that participate in the monthly meetings, where agencies share information. The meetings have been highly beneficial for sharing grant resources/ideas, grant opportunities, grant training, policies and procedures, best practices, and shared collaboration on some specific grant initiatives. The Department highlighted its electronic grant-tracking database in one of the latest meetings. The database is an example of a resource that can be shared with other state agencies. The Florida Inter-Agency Consortium has created an excellent forum to share ideas and practices in a time when grant funding plays an increasing role in meeting agency priorities and enhancing service delivery.

17th Management Fellows Class Visits the Capitol

The Management Fellows Program is one way the Department grows its own leaders. The program identifies employees with management potential and provides academic and professional training that helps prepare them for supervisory administrative positions within DHSMV. It takes a year for Fellows to complete the program, where they develop important skills to help them be successful supervisors within the Department.

During the 2010 Legislative session, the Management Fellows group met in Tallahassee to update everyone on each Fellow's progress in the program and to experience some exciting things going on in state government. The 17th class visited the Capitol during the last week of the 2010 Legislative Session. There, they met with Steven Fielder and Executive Director Julie Jones to discuss the 2010 Session and the bills the Department was tracking. The Fellows also had the opportunity to meet with Representative Glorioso and Representative

Appropriations Committee to discuss the budget process. They also had the opportunity to experience the legislative process and see action on the Senate floor. It was an exciting day and an exciting time for the Department of Highway Safety and Motor

Vehicles to be represented at the Capitol by such a distinguished group.

"The visit to the Capitol was a great way to see how the legislative process works," said Fellow Kimson Nobles, Office of Workforce Programs.



Top Left: Gary McMullen, Cindy Fucci, Evelyn Wyse, Katishia Daniels, Eric Brown. Front Row: Bryan Bradner, Nalini Vinayak, Kimson Nobles. Not Pictured: Brannon Snead, Dennis Hobbs, Jeffery Johnson, Barbara Heid, Diane Austin, Walter Rogers

In Memorium

In May, the DHSMV family suffered the untimely loss of FHP Trooper Patrick Ambrose. While his legacy will live on because of the significant contributions he made to public safety in our state, he will be sorely missed by his family, friends and co-workers. Our thoughts and prayers remain with his family.

On May 15, Ambrose was killed when his patrol car was struck from behind while he was stopped on the shoulder of the Florida Turnpike, near Okeechobee Road. On May 23, Gov. Charlie Crist joined Department members and numerous dignitaries and law enforcement



representatives from across the country to pay respects to Ambrose and his service to Floridians. Trooper Ambrose began his career with the Florida Highway Patrol as a graduate of the 111th recruit class on Jan. 12, 2006, and he was assigned to Troop K,

Miami upon graduation. He is survived by his wife, Roberta, and two daughters, ages five years old and three months old. Ambrose is the 43rd trooper killed in the line of duty since 1936.

In memory of Trooper Ambrose, the Governor authorized the flying of the state flag at half-staff over the Miami-Dade County Courthouse, the City Hall of Miami-Dade, all Florida Highway Patrol stations and DHSMV locations on the

date of Ambrose's funeral.

Governor Crist stated, "My heart goes out to Trooper Ambrose's wife and two young daughters, as well as to the Florida Troopers who worked alongside him. Trooper Ambrose stood for service to his community, dedication to his fellow officers, and commitment to his family. The family and friends of Trooper Ambrose, a Haitian-American concerned about loved ones still recovering from the recent earthquake, will remain in the thoughts and prayers of all who knew him. Every day Florida's law enforcement officers put themselves in harm's way as they serve on the frontlines protecting our neighborhoods and communities. We join together to mourn this loss and celebrate a brave man's life as a brother, a son, a father and a husband."

Trooper Ambrose was further honored by the presence of the United States Honor Flag, which accompanied him until interment. Since September 2001, the Honor Flag has paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the line of duty protecting our lives, our homes and our country and also those who currently serve our communities and our nation.

Agency Celebrates 10 Years of Protection for Florida Motorists

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the Florida Highway Patrol's popular, award-winning Occupant Protection Program. The program started with a simple plan to build a team of Occupant Protection Specialists who would help protect children, teens and adult motorists in our state. The Department designed the team to help raise public awareness on the importance of safety belts and child restraints and safe driving practices among motorists in Florida.

Thanks to the support of agency management, the hard work of a dedicated group of team members, and the federal funding provided by our safety partners at the Florida Department of Transportation, the program continues its status as a valuable service for our agency's customers.

Each year, the Occupant Protection Team conducts safety presentations for nearly 200,000 members of the public and gives more than 3,000 teen driver safety demonstrations. Since 2001, the team has served more than 2 million Florida motorists, educated more than 700,000 parents and caregivers on proper installation and use of child restraints and distributed more than 75,000 child seats and boosters to Florida families who could not afford to purchase them for their children.

With the agency's continued support, the Occupant Protection Program has continued to grow in popularity and importance among the public and has exceeded all expectations in our agency's safety outreach and customer service efforts.

The Occupant Protection Program has truly become an integral part of our agency's safety educational outreach and has made a real difference in helping to fulfill our agency's vision of a *safer Florida*.

For more information on our agency's Occupant Protection Program, please visit www.flhsmv.gov/fhp/CPS or contact a member of the Occupant Protection Team (contact information is provided online at www.flhsmv.gov/fhp/CPS/OccProtect.htm).



On April 13, the Occupant Protection Team held their annual meeting and participated in an agency sponsored Capital Area Child Passenger Safety Update in Tallahassee. Front Row (L to R): Nelvys Hernandez, Robert Mazza, Lucy Papp and Reggie Edwards. Back Row (L to R): Pat Bradley, Dawn Tomlinson, Wanda Diaz and Kim Jones.

Emergency Contact Information Registration Surpasses 3 Million

If you were in a car crash, would law enforcement officers know how to quickly contact your loved ones? The Emergency Contact Information program is a tool that law

enforcement can use to do just that. More than 3.5 million Floridians have registered their contacts. The system allows licensed drivers and identification card holders to register two contacts to notify in the event of an emergency, either online at www.flhsmv.gov/eci



or in a state or tax collector operated driver license office. The information can then be accessed only by law enforcement officers to find designated contacts in

the case of an emergency. There is no cost to register your contact information. Want to do your part to help us spread the word? Tell a friend how to register online or if you are on Facebook, click [here](#) to join the ECI Facebook page.

You Snooze, You Lose – Don't Drive Drowsy

Driver fatigue leads to 1,550 fatalities and 71,000 crashes each year in the United States. While those numbers may seem like boring statistics, it is more than that to Ronshay Dugans' family. It is a sad reality. In 2008, a driver fell asleep at the wheel of a cement truck in Tallahassee and slammed into the bus carrying 8-year-old Ronshay. Her family worked with State Rep. Alan Williams to champion new legislation to create the Ronshay Dugans Act so that other families do not have to suffer a loss like the one they have. The Act designates the first week of September as Drowsy Driving Prevention Week in Florida to remind motorists of their responsibility as a driver to be alert and sober behind the wheel.

Florida developed *You Snooze, You Lose – Don't Drive Drowsy*, a campaign to remind drivers of the potential consequences that falling asleep at the wheel can have.

So whose eyelids are most at-risk of dropping anchor while at the wheel? According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, drivers in the following three groups pose the highest risk of drowsy driving:

- Young people (ages 16 - 29), especially males.
- Shift workers whose sleep is disrupted by working at night or working long or irregular hours.
- People with untreated sleep apnea syndrome and narcolepsy.

Any driver can fall victim to driving while drowsy – regardless of the time of day. Measures that drivers can take to arm themselves against the Sandman are:

- Catch some ZZZZ's before you get behind the wheel.
- Bring a buddy. By having another driver on board, you have someone to share the driving responsibilities and help keep one another alert.
- Take a break. Stopping to get out and stretch your legs every few hours or even to catch a quick nap will help you recharge your battery.
- Drive sober. Alcohol and driving never mix. Also, heed prescription medication labels and any warnings that say they may make you drowsy.

Fatigue and drowsiness can impair your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle, which not only puts you and your passengers at risk, but also it places everyone else on the road with you at-risk. For more information, visit www.dot.state.fl.us/safety.

Technical Process Improvements Pave the Road to Better Service, Better Value for Customers

When most people think of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, their focus is likely on the face-to-face interactions they have with our staff, such as renewing a driver license or seeing our troopers safeguard the roadways. Most people do not realize the vast technical infrastructure the Department has built to process driver licenses, traffic citations and much more to support the agency's day-to-day operations. The Department's Information Systems Administration has made recent improvements to the processes it uses to troubleshoot technical outages, to benefits that include:

- Improved customer service, perception and satisfaction
- Reduced operational costs—less reproduction of efforts
- Improved business efficiency through less down time
- Increased accessibility through a single point of contact, communication and information
- Enhanced focus and a proactive approach to service provision

So how did DHSMV's Information Technology team do it?

ISA's approach starts with the lifecycle of day-to-day operations: the Service Operations Lifecycle. The lifecycle contains the customer facing Service Desk function and two processes: Incident Management and Problem Management.

Incident Management

The Incident Management Process

handles restoring service outages as soon as possible by any means available. This means engaging subject matter experts to restore services quickly so Department staff can get back to work fast. The Service Desk, or Technical Assistance Center as employees know it as, plays an integral role in this process. TAC is the single point of contact for all outages and service requests. Most employees know they can call TAC about password resets or computer outages, but also TAC works with the technical gurus who are behind the scenes to keep employees abreast of the status of their technical service requests. ISA updated its service desk software as part of the process improvement.

Problem Management

The Problem Management process begins after the incident or outage is closed and service restored. Problem Management helps ISA get to the root of the problem so the Department can remove it and any future problems that may arise from it. ISA has dedicated staff members who work to remove these incident-causing problems. This enhances the stability and reliability of supported IT services. Problem Management uses incident records and reporting to identify potential problems.

ISA is committed to improving its services to best posture the Department to conduct its mission of providing highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. DHSMV's IT team will continue to work with peers throughout the state and private industry to improve services by learning from best practices.

Department Consolidates Data Centers to Maximize Technology

Florida Law requires all state agency data centers and computing facilities to consolidate into one of three state primary data centers by 2019. The state's goal is to maximize current and future cost savings. The data center consolidation effort relates to hardware, system software and operating system support.

The transition is organized in waves. Each wave occurs over a two-year cycle. The first year is for planning, and the second year is for executing the plan. ISA

completed consolidation of the mainframe environment at the Southwood Shared Resource Center in Tallahassee, Fla., in July 2009. The Department is currently scheduled in Wave 2 with a completion date of Dec. 31, 2011.

The consolidation project is very complex, which is why we are going to great lengths to plan and prepare so as not to adversely impact the services we provide to the residents of the state of Florida.

DHSMV's FLOWmobile Assists the Homeless Community

The Department has 11 Florida Licensing on Wheels mobile units (FLOWmobile) stationed around the state that assist with community events, such as health fairs, senior expositions and children's safety outreach. The Department also engages the FLOWmobiles in events to assist those who are homeless. Non-profit agencies, faith-based organizations or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs typically sponsor these events, which partner DHSMV with other agencies that are vital to the sustainability of the homeless community, including the Social Security Administration, the Department of Health Office of Vital Statistics, legal counsel, and local food and clothing banks. Homeless individuals often have difficulty obtaining much needed identification documents, especially when it comes to out-of-state birth certificates. The documents that they can obtain through the events empower homeless individuals because they provide the necessary paperwork they need to apply for employment, to cash checks, to obtain housing, to vote, or to get assistance from non-profit organizations. Participating agencies come together in one location to help the homeless obtain necessary documents. The satisfying end result is often a Florida identification card.

DHSMV members who work on the FLOWmobiles take great pride in knowing that the work they do each day truly makes a difference in someone's life. Our members have a dedication to public service and wholeheartedly strive to maintain excellence in all services provided at any community event. Since last fall, the Department has participated in nearly 25 events that focus on the state's homeless population in many locations, including Fort Walton Beach, Orlando and Miami. The events served thousands, and nearly 1,100 homeless people received ID cards because of the teamwork and goodwill of the participating agencies.



The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is tweeting! You can find and even follow the Department on Twitter under the name:

@FDHSMV

More than 2 Million Floridians Receive New Driver Licenses, ID Cards with a Gold Star

Beginning Jan. 1, new documentation requirements took effect for Florida residents wishing to obtain a driver license or identification card. Customers who visit a driver license office for any reason, whether it be to renew or replace a license, get a new one, or simply change a name or address, are required to bring proof of:

- (1) identity,
- (2) Social Security number and
- (3) residential address (two items).

Those who have legally changed their names, will need to bring documented proof of name change, such as a certified marriage certificate.

To prepare for a visit to a driver license office or a participating tax collector's office, customers are visiting the Department's

interactive website, www.GatherGoGet.com, to find out how and when to gather the right documents, go to an office and get a new card. While the new documentation requirements

are now in effect, Florida residents may not have to visit a driver license or tax collector of office right away.

Since inception of the new requirements, more than 2 million new cards have been issued with the gold star in the upper right

corner indicating compliance with the new identification requirements. The successful implementation of the new requirements enhances the safety and security of Florida's driver license and ID card processes and systems, benefitting our customers, the business community and law enforcement.



Other than the gold star insignia, there are no other changes to the card.

DHSMV Executive Director Receives National Recognition

DHSMV Executive Director Julie L. Jones was honored July 18, when the Airborne Law Enforcement Association presented her with the Robert L. Cormier Award. The annual award recognizes an individual whose personal efforts and actions have perpetuated the professionalism and advancement of airborne law enforcement in public service.

As DHSMV's Executive Director, Jones is responsible for overseeing the operations of the nine fixed wing aircraft used by the Florida Highway Patrol for enforcement and patrolling for disabled vehicles and crashes. As former director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's law enforcement division, Jones directed the operations of six helicopters and seven fixed wing aircraft as they conducted a variety of missions, including wildlife and boating enforcement, search and rescue.

Airborne law enforcement operations are an effective and efficient way to enforce laws and serve the public. Because of Florida's vast geography, airborne operations serve as a force multiplier to maximize enforcement efforts. Florida's airborne operations also have recently played critical roles in reconnaissance and surveillance of Florida's Gulf Coast as part of the state's response to the Deepwater Horizon event.

Department Garners Homeland Security Award

The Coalition for a Secure Driver's License, a Washington D.C. based non-profit, presented its Homeland Security Award to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles on July 19. The Coalition recognized the Department for advances in driver license security and applying new procedures to confirm the identities of applicants that align with federal regulations.

Brian Zimmer, CSDL President, stated, "The Florida DHSMV has done a first class job of informing Florida residents before the process began and throughout the process of rolling out the new procedures. In particular, the clarity with which the Florida DHSMV's initiative *Gather, Go, Get* systematically explained what would occur and why it improved the safety of Florida residents should be an example followed by others."

Based on this year's annual assessment of anti-counterfeiting and anti-fraud protections for Florida's driver licenses and identification cards, CSDL announced that it was proud to award the Department for providing the residents of Florida with a secure and reliable form of personal identification. Florida is one of 11 states authorized by the Department of Homeland Security to affix the gold star on driver licenses and IDs, denoting compliance with the Real ID Act. Details of the Florida's award are available on CSDL's website at www.secure-license.org.

Stop on Red, Kids Ahead

National School Bus Safety Week falls on Oct. 18-22 this year. Using the week as a springboard, state agencies are teaming up to bring the public safety topic to the front and center. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is working with the departments of Transportation and Education to develop Stop on Red, Kids Ahead, a statewide campaign that will help motorists understand Florida's laws for passing a school bus. The state agencies are collaborating to arm educators, law enforcement officers and safety advocates with a toolkit of information and resources that easily can be plugged in to promote the campaign in communities across Florida. The campaign website, www.FloridaSchoolBusSafety.gov, serves as the information portal for the campaign. It provides graphics, downloadable brochures, a template press release, safety tips, a public service announcement, a short instructional video and much more!

If your school or organization is planning a school bus safety event, tell us know about it! Visit the website to submit your event information so that we can post it on FloridaSchoolBusSafety.gov. Visit FloridaSchoolBusSafety.gov for more materials that will help you keep students in your community safe on their way to and from school.



FloridaSchoolBusSafety.gov